

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to a first Office action (Paper No. 6) dated August 19, 2002. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-44 will be pending in this application. Applicant has amended claims 1, 20 and 21 and has newly added claims 25-44 by this amendment.

The Examiner has rejected claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicant has amended claim 21 to overcome this rejection.

The Examiner, in Paper No. 6, rejected claims 1, 2 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Farros *et al.*, U. S. Patent No. 5,930,810. The Examiner rejected claims 3-8, 11-13 and 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Farros '810. The Examiner rejected claims 9, 14, 15 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Farros '810 in view of Chabrow.

Farros '810 pertains to a print service that enables a customer to create a document to be printed at a printer located at a remote location. The customer may create the document, may submit the job order for printing and may arrange payment from either a personal computer or a kiosk. The customer's personal computer or the kiosk has all the programs needed to create the document, store and submit the print order. The customer does not connect, over the internet to a print agency to submit the document prior to printing.

Eric Chabrow pertains to an article in "Information Week" that discusses a website "www.iprint.com" that enables printing of images and/or text on a variety of media. www.iprint.com doesn't do its own printing but transmits orders over the internet to commercial printers to be fulfilled. Like Farros '810, there is no editor at the place where the customer submits the document to provide professional services for the customer.

Regarding claims 1 and 20, the Examiner, in Paper No. 6, construes the "editor" as the same as the "customer". Applicant has amended claims 1 and 20 so that the editor is distinguishable from the customer in order to place claims 1 and 20 in condition for allowance.

Regarding claims 1 and 20, in Farros '810, the Kiosk or the personal system embodiments have graphic storage 204, a form storage 205 and a program module 206 that include files 105-109 at the terminal. Applicant submits that Farros '810 does not teach or suggest having a customer access a home page over the world wide web. Instead, all the programs and storage needed to electronically create the document for printing are stored at the user's or customer's terminal instead of at a home page that is accessed only through the internet.

Regarding claims 1, 11 and 20, Applicant submits that Farros '810 does not have a printing agency and Farros '810 does not connect to a print agency via the Internet. In Farros '810, all of the software needed to produce the document to be printed, the print order and the payment and quote are all done at the customer's personal computer or a Kiosk. The only exception to this is FIG. 4 of

Farros '810. In FIG. 4 of Farros '810, the customer connects to software for producing the document and placing the print order via the internet *in an office environment*. Applicant submits that reference numeral 401 in Farros '810 is not a print agency but is merely a storage that can be accessed by others in the same office. Reference numeral 401 in FIG. 4 of Farros '810 is not an internet site with a web page or a home page as claimed by Applicant. The purpose of reference numeral 401 in FIG. 4 of Farros '810 is to avoid requiring each and every user in an office environment from having to store the software to produce the document and the storage of the document itself to be printed at a user's personal computer. FIG. 4 of Farros '810 enables people in an office environment to access the software, not enabling the entire world wide web to access the software. Thus, it is submitted that FIG. 4 of Farros '810 does not have a home page and does not provide access to all internet users in the world wide web access to the software needed to create a document, to get a price quote or to submit a job order to a remote printer.

Regarding independent method claim 11, Applicant traverses the Examiner's prior art rejection of claim 11. *Regarding the third limitation of claim 11, it is noted that the Examiner takes Official Notice in the rejection of claim 11 that the step of receiving an online estimate is old and well known in the art. Applicant submits that receiving an on line estimate in the context of Applicant's claim 11 is not old and well known in the art. Applicant claims in claim 11 a customer at a computer connected to a print agency that provides editing and cost estimates for a print job that is then sent to a third, remote location for printing. Applicant submits that the cost estimate in combination with the editing at the print agency is neither taught nor suggested by the prior art.*

Regarding the fifth limitation of claim 11, Applicant claims that an editor at the print agency edits the customer's draft. The Examiner states that column 2, lines 25-30 and column 10, lines 62-67 of Farros '810 teach this limitation. Applicant notes that Farros '810 does teach having the customer, at the customer's terminal to modify the document. However, Applicant submits there is no editing in Farros '810 that is carried out at the print agency where the print agency is connected to the customer's terminal via the internet. Applicant submits that the editor in Applicant's claims needs to both be knowledgeable of editing skills that were in existence before computers and the internet and must also be knowledgeable of computer software, of digital imaging, of printing, and of the internet and much more, a combination of skills that did not exist in the past, making this fifth limitation neither taught nor suggested by the prior art. Furthermore, the editor, unlike the customer, specializes in electronic file and image editing, a feature that is not old and well known in the prior art. The customer does not have these skills because the customer does not specialize in these areas. Therefore, the notion of having an editor edit a document that contains text and images is not taught nor fairly suggested by the prior art.

The Examiner takes Official Notice that editing a customer's print job at a print agency connected to the customer via the internet is old and well known in the art. Applicant disagrees. Applicant submits that the *combination* of having a print agency electronically connected to a customer's computer terminal via the internet, the print agency being able to print at a remote location, and the fact that editing takes place at the internet print agency is not old and well known in the art and it is not taught nor suggested by the prior art. Applicant submits that the notion that

a traditional print shop may have editing services does not infer that it is obvious to have an internet print agency that does editing electronically.

Regarding claims 14 and 15, Applicant claims that the editing at the print agency corrects misspellings, corrects typographical errors and corrects unreadable characters due to different computer software or different font environment and formats page margins, line spacing, font size, page numbering, line numbering and paragraph numbering. In Paper No. 6, Applicant submits that the Examiner has failed to address these claims and these limitations. Applicant submits that the Examiner's failure to address the limitations in these claims is further evidence that an editor at an internet print agency is not old and well known in the art.

Regarding claim 16, Applicant claims that the editing comprises enlarging and reducing pictures. The Examiner again takes Official Notice on the top of Page 9 of Paper No. 6. Applicant submits that it is the *editing done in an internet electronic environment* that is not old and well known in the art. Receiving files over the internet and professionally processing these files for printing at a remote location is not old and well known. Therefore, Applicant submits that this feature is not taught nor suggested by the applied prior art.

Regarding claim 17, Applicant claims the editing process where a document to be later printed is edited by the print agency, the editing is reviewed by the customer, and a second editing is again conducted at the print agency. Once again, the Examiner takes Official Notice for these

steps and then states that it would have been obvious to modify Farros '810 to include the 6 limitations of claim 17. Applicant disagrees. Applicant first submits that Farros '810 does not pertain to an internet print service as discussed above. Assuming arguendo that Farros '810 did pertain to an internet printing service, Applicant submits that it would not have been obvious to modify Farros '810 to include these limitations. This is because it is not obvious to have a professional editing service for documents sent over the internet in electronic form for printing. This is because special technical expertise is needed to edit electronic documents sent over the internet as opposed to editing a book prior to publication or any other traditional editing task. Applicant submits that the editor in Applicant's claims needs to both be knowledgeable of editing skills that were in existence before computers and the internet and must also be knowledgeable of computer software, of digital imaging, of printing, and of the internet and much more, a combination of skills that did not exist in the past, a combination of skills that are neither taught nor suggested by the prior art.

Applicant has made numerous amendments to the specification by this amendment to correct for typographical errors.

Applicant has newly added claims 25-44 by this amendment. These claims claim in more detail the process illustrated in FIGS. 2 and 13 as well as claim in more detail the apparatus found in the figures of Applicant's application. Entry of and favorable examination of these claims is respectfully requested.

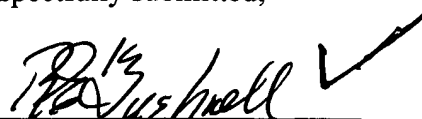
A fee of \$306.00 is incurred by the addition of three (3) more independent claims in excess of 3 and twenty (20) more claims in excess of 20 for a small entity. Applicant's check drawn to the order of Commissioner accompanies this Response. Should the check become lost, be deficient in payment, or should other fees be incurred, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 02-4943 of Applicant's undersigned attorney in the amount of such fees.

A fee of \$55.00 is incurred by filing of a petition for a one month extension of time for a small entity, set to expire on December 19, 2002. Applicant's check drawn to the order of Commissioner accompanies this Amendment. Should the check become lost, be deficient in payment, or should other fees be incurred, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 02-4943 of Applicant's undersigned attorney in the amount of such fees.

A Letter to the Office Draftsman accompanies this Amendment for changes to FIGS. 1 and 12. Indication in subsequent Office correspondence as to the acceptance of the drawing corrections proposed in the Letter is respectfully requested to enable Applicant to timely arrange for the corrections to be made prior to the date for payment of any issue fee.

In view of the above, all claims are deemed to be allowable and this application is believed to be in condition to be passed to issue. Should any questions remain unresolved, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicant's attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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MARKED-UP VERSION OF AMENDMENTS SHOWING CHANGES MADE
IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraph 0035 as follows:

Contents server 12 enables customer 2 and/or editor 4 to input information based on the information recorded in homepage contents 11, and sends information to customer 2 and/or editor 4. Printing information database 13 records, according to the ID number of customer 2, a document having text, images and pictures inputted by customer 2 from the [a] customer terminal via computer network 3 in accordance with the instructions given by contents server 12.

Please amend paragraph 0040 as follows:

When the above selections have been made, contents server [14] 12 notifies editor 4 that the cost estimate request has been inputted (S4). Editor 4 is notified, via e-mail, of receipt of the cost estimate request, and the editor makes cost estimate (S5). The cost estimate made by the editor then is sent to customer 2 from the editor terminal via contents server 12 in a form of e-mail as shown in Fig. 6 (S6). The e-mail containing the cost estimate made by the editor also contains a customer ID and a customer password which are necessary for customer 2 to access to the document having text, images and pictures located in contents server 12. Unlike other printing services, this service does not offer substantial "volume discounts" based on the size of the document to be printed or the quantity of the documents to be printed. For this reason, editor 4 can quote an exceptionally low cost for both high volume orders and for small orders attracting both high volume customers and low volume customers.

Please amend paragraph 0043 as follows:

For example, in Fig. 9, “try-extaro” has sent a document having text, images and pictures under filename “a” in a HTML format; column “From” shows “try-extaro”, column [“Real Name”] “File Name” shows “a.htm”. Editor 4 retrieves the document having text, images and pictures and then edits the received document having text, images and pictures (S14). The edited document having text, images and pictures is inputted to file management server 14 by editor 4, and then sends the edited document having text, images and pictures to the finished manuscript database 15 (S15). Other embodiments include the steps of editing the document having text, images and pictures sent by the customer by editor 4 (S14-1), submitting the edited version to the customer for further revisions and proofreading(S14-2), having the customer proofread said document (S14-3), having the customer resubmit the proofread document back to the print agency(14-4), and then performing a second editing by the editor 4(S14-5) before the document is stored in the finalized document database 15. If no editing job is necessary, the document having text, images and pictures received by editor 4 can be sent to finalized document database 15 from printing information database 13 as a finalized document having text, images and pictures.

Please amend paragraph 0048 as follows:

Referring to Fig. 12 and the second embodiment of the present invention, the elements illustrated in Fig. 12 bearing the same reference numeral numbers as the elements illustrated in Fig. 1, perform the same functions as the elements illustrated in Fig. 1 bearing the same reference numeral numbers found in Fig. 12. As to the reference numeral numbers not found in Fig. 1, that

is, 2-1 ~ 2-n, this represents a plural number of customers and 5-1 ~ 5-n represents a plural number of output devices which are connected to computer network 3, with which the document having text, images and pictures provided by the customers are recorded, via the on-demand printing support system, on the printing medium desired by the customers via network printing. As explained in the first embodiment above, output devices 5-1 through 5-n can be toner-type digital printer 51 which electronically gathers pages in order, CD-ROM printing machine 52, ink-jet type printer 53, magneto-optical disk read/write machine 54, *etc.* Devices to be included in output device 5 may be one of the [followings:] following: toner-type digital printer 51 which electronically gathers pages in order, CD-ROM printing machine 52, ink-jet type printer 53, magneto-optical disk read/write machine 54, *etc.*

Please amend paragraph 0049 as follows:

As shown in Fig. 12, "1 through n" shown next to numeral [numbers] number 2 corresponds to the same number "1 through n" which appears [next] next to 5. For example, output device 5-1 is used for recording the document having text, images and pictures on a desired printing medium desired by customer 2-1, output device 5-2 is used for recording the document having text, images and pictures on a desired printing medium desired by customer 2-2, and output device 5-n is used for recording the document having text, images and pictures on a desired printing medium desired by customer 2-n. This is an example of network printing. As output devices are located nearby their customers for their convenience, if customer 2-1 is located in the Hokkaido region in Japan, output device 5-1 is also located in the Hokkaido region in Japan. Similarly, if customer 2-2 is located in

the Kyushu region in Japan, output device 2-2 is also located in the Kyushu region in Japan. Likewise, a customer can be located in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, London, Seoul, etc. As a result, output devices will be located at these various locales around the world for the convenience of the customer. It may be necessary for a set of output devices (toner type digital printer, CD-ROM printing device, ink-jet type printer and magnetic optical disk read/write device) to be located at each of these locales. These output devices must be regularly maintained as they must be loaded with the various sizes, colors and quality of paper at all times in order to print any and all orders received by the printing agency.

Please amend paragraph 0050 as follows:

Referring now to Fig. 13, Fig. 13 is a flow diagram for the second embodiment of the present invention. In Fig. 13, the elements illustrated in Fig. 13 bear the same step numbers as the elements illustrated in Fig. 2 and perform the same functions as the step numbers illustrated in Fig. 1. With respect to the step [numbers] numbers (S18) which [are not shown] is not illustrated in Fig. 2, when file management server 14 records the finalized document having text, images and pictures in finalized document database 15, the edited document having text, images and pictures in conjunction with the control information in controlled information database 16 are output by output controller 17 after editor 4 selects an output device (S21). Editor 4 then selects an output device which is located nearest the customer. For example, if the document having text, images and pictures is provided by customer 2-1, then editor 4 selects output device 5-1, and if the document having text, images and pictures is provided by customer 2-2, editor 4 selects output device 5-2. Upon selection

of an output device, output controller 17 outputs, in accordance with the instructions provided by editor 4 (S17), the edited document having text, images and pictures to the selected output device (S22). The selected output device records the document having text, images and pictures on the recording medium desired by the customer (bound printed material or CD-ROM) (S19), and the finished products are shipped to the customer 2 by mail or other delivery means (S20).

Please amend paragraph [0053] as follows:

The aforesaid computer system includes hardware and software, such as OS or peripheral devices. When the WWW (World Wide Web) system is used, homepage providing environment (or, display environment) is also included. Also, the aforesaid computer readable recording medium are memory devices stored in a computer system, such as floppy disks, magneto-optical disks, ROMs, CD-ROMs, or storage devices. Further, the aforesaid computer readable recording medium includes transmission media or transmission wave, for example, which keeps the programs actively for a short time as transmitting the programs via computer networks, such as Internet, and communication lines, such as telephone lines. Also, volatile memory installed inside a computer system which is to be a server or a client, for example, may be included in the aforesaid computer readable recording medium, which keeps the programs for a certain [time,] time.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 20 and 21 as follows and newly add claims 25-44 as above:

1. (Amended) An Internet printing apparatus, comprising:

2 a home page that can be accessed by a customer over the World Wide Web, said home page
3 comprising instructions of how a customer can request a print job, said home page further
4 comprising a form that may be accessed through a hyperlink, said form enabling a customer to
5 request said print job;

6 a first memory storing a customer's printing parameters and a first draft of said customer's
7 print job;

8 an editor connected to said first memory to edit said first draft of said customer's print job
9 creating a finalized version of said customer's print job, said editor being distinguishable from said
10 customer;

11 a second memory connected to said editor storing said finalized version of said customer's
12 print job; and

13 an output device connected to said second memory via network printing to download said
14 finalized version onto a recording media at a location of said customer's choice.

1 20. (Amended) A system for printing a document having text, images and pictures,
2 comprising:

3 a user computer terminal connected to the Internet;

4 a printing agency accessible via the Internet by said user computer;

5 an editor connected to said printing agency for editing a manuscript submitted by said user
6 to said printing agency to produce said document having text, images and pictures job, said editor
7 not being said customer; and

8 a first plurality of output devices located at a second plurality of locations distant from said
9 printing agency, each of said first plurality of output devices connected to said printing agency via
10 computer network printing.

1 21. (Amended) The system of claim 20, [wherein] said printing agency comprises:
2 a first memory [for] storing a manuscript originally submitted by said user prior to editing;
3 and
4 a second memory [for] storing said [finalized] document after editing.